



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

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Burmaster announces after-school funding grant

Mott Foundation support will expand Wisconsin after-school programs

MADISON— State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster recently announced that Wisconsin will receive a three-year grant totaling \$225,000 from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation to support a statewide network for after-school programs.

The grant, made to the Wisconsin Afterschool Network (WAN), will fund a formal statewide collaboration designed to improve the quality and quantity of after-school programs and make high-quality after-school and extended-learning opportunities available for school-age youth in every Wisconsin community. The Department of Public Instruction, the University of Wisconsin System, the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families, and a group of public and private organizations are collaborating to provide 2-to-1 match funding to support the project.

“The Mott Foundation’s support will expand and sustain successful after-school programs in Wisconsin,” said Burmaster. “It will provide resources to bring together key decision makers on after-school programs in the state. We intend to coordinate our efforts to provide the best after-school programming, and to build robust support for after-school programs among parents, the business community, lawmakers, and after-school providers.”

The Wisconsin Afterschool Network will focus its collaboration on three related goals:

- creating a sustainable structure of statewide, regional, and local partnerships focused on supporting statewide policy development;
- supporting the development and growth of statewide policies that will secure the resources needed to sustain new and existing after-school programs; and
- supporting statewide systems to ensure that programs are of high quality.

“Our hope is that funding for the networks will encourage local and state policymakers to invest additional resources into expanding quality after-school opportunities and improving their

(more)

sustainability,” said Mott Foundation Program Officer An-Me Chung. “The networks also will provide a means for joint planning; sharing of resources and best practices; building bridges to and between federal, state, and local after-school initiatives; and forging partnerships necessary for comprehensive statewide after-school policies.”

The Wisconsin Afterschool Network is a group of more than 40 state organizations and agencies representing youth development, education, health, human services, child care, and child advocacy, working to help youth find ways to extend their learning opportunities beyond the traditional school day. By mobilizing local, regional, and state resources, Wisconsin school-age youth will have additional opportunities to be successful by participating in high-quality after-school programs.

The network is working with Gov. Jim Doyle’s office to plan a statewide Governor’s Summit on Extended-Learning Opportunities in February 2006. The event, sponsored by the National Governors Association, will bring together state leaders from the public and private sectors to examine how after-school program opportunities can be expanded and sustained throughout Wisconsin.

National organizations providing technical support via Mott funding to the existing and emerging statewide networks include the Afterschool Alliance, Council of Chief State School Officers, National League of Cities, National Conference of State Legislatures, National Governors Association Center for Best Practices, The Finance Project, and the University of South Carolina Education Foundation, with assistance from Learning Points Associates and Collaborative Communications Group.

The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, established in 1926 in Flint, Mich., by an automotive pioneer, is a private philanthropy committed to supporting projects that promote a just, equitable, and sustainable society. It supports nonprofit programs both nationally and internationally. Grant-making is focused on four areas: civil society, environment, Flint area, and Pathways Out of Poverty. For more information about the foundation, visit <http://www.mott.org>.

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